

Message Text

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43

ACTION AID-31

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 IGA-02 EB-11 IO-13 AGR-20 INR-10

COME-00 TRSE-00 RSR-01 RSC-01 /100 W

----- 129267

R 191340Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4478

INFO AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GABORONE 1091

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGIN, EAGR, BC

SUBJ: LIMITATIONS ON EXPORTS OF SELECTED FOODSTUFFS

REF: A) STATE 115785, B) GABORONE 0906; C) GABORONE 0997

1.FOLLOWING DATA IS IN RESPONSE PARA. 4, REFTEL A). ACCORDING FIGURES FROM GOB STATISTICIAN FOR PERIOD APRIL-DECEMBER 1972, BOTSWANA IMPORTED COMMERCIALLY SMALL SMOUNTS OF US RICE, WHEAT AND SORGHUM. DURING SAME PERIOD, BOTSWANA APPARENTLY IMPORTED A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF CEREAL GRAINS INCLUDING RYE, BARLEY AND OATS WORTH APPROXIMATELY \$67,500 FROM US WHILE IMPORTING ONLY \$23,420 OF SAME GRAINS FROM SOUTH AFRICAN SOURCES. BECAUSE OF IMPERFECTIONS NEWLY DEVISED GOB SYSTEM FOR COLLECTING STATISTICAL DATA, THESE FIGURES SHOULD BE TREATED WITH CAUTION.

2. GOB CHIEF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMIST STATES THAT BOTSWANA CONSUMES ANNUALLY APPROXIMATELY ONE MILLION BAGS (100,000 TONS) SOYBEANS AND WHOLE GRAINS INCLUDING CEREALS, SORGHUM, MAIZE, WHEAT AND MILLET. IN GOOD RAINFALL YEAR BOTSWANA IMPORTS 30 TO 40 PERCENT ANNUAL CONSUMPTION. HOWEVER, IMPORTS FOR 1973, A DROUGHT YEAR, EXPECTED TO TOTAL ROUGHLY 900,000 BAGS OR 90 PERCENT OF DOMESTIC REQUIRMENTS.

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BOTSWANA IMPORTS NO RPT NO GRAINS OR SOYBEANS ON SUBSIDIZED

(I.E., CONCESSIONAL) BASIS. NONE ANTICIPATED DURING FY74.
BULK OF IMPORTS PURCHASED COMMERCIALY FROM SOUTH
AFRICAN SOURCES WHICH SUBJECT TO CONTROL VARIOUS SA BOARDS
SUCH AS SA MAIZE BOARD. GOB ECONOMIST STATES BOTSWANA
NEEDS INCLUDED IN SA PLANS FOR EXPORTS. IN 1973 BOTSWANA
PLANS IMPORT APPROXIMATELY 7000 TONS GRAINS, SOYBEANS, CSM,
OIL AND MAIZE MEAL ON FULL GRANT BASIS UNDER WFP PROGRAM.
ROUGHLY 85 PERCENT THIS AMOUNT IS OF U.S. ORIGIN. WFP
REQUIREMENTS FOR BOTSWANA AND EMBASSY SUPPORT FOR WFP
REQUESTS (REFTELS B AND C) ON RECORD.
BISHOP

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